

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic Church
The Presbytery
87 High Street
Chipping Ongar
CM5 9DX

Parish Priest:
Fr Emile Nkumu
Phone: 01277 362645
ongar@brcdt.org

catholicparishongar.org



www.dioceseofbrentwood.net



St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) Sunday 1st December, 2024

Jeremiah 33.14–16, Psalm 24,1 Thessalonians 3.12 – 4.2, Luke 21.25–28, 34–36

Advent is a time of preparation, for Christmas and this year for the coming Jubilee, a time of expectant waiting. Are we getting ready for Christmas or attentive to the Second Coming. How will we celebrate the Saviour's birth this year, and each day how aware are we of Christ's presence in our ordinary lives. Our scriptures have laid foundations for Luke's clarion call for us to stay awake at all times for the coming of the Son of Man at the end time.

He will fulfil God's **promise in Jeremiah** by being a righteous branch of the House of Israel and Judah, executing justice and righteousness. These qualities will mark the last days, but the promise also means we must try to bring them about in our own day.

This will be achieved, **says Paul**, if our love for others increases and abounds, if we please God more and more.

Jesus calls us to respond now, to be prepared for any eventuality of future distress of nations. Our hearts need to be free of the pressures of sins of dissipation, drunkenness and the cares of this life. We need to pray to stay awake unless these pressures will overtake us.

Our goal is to stand blameless before the son of God. Are our preparations for Christmas help others see that the coming feast is more than just a happy holiday. It is a challenge to find the best ways of communicating the real meaning of Advent and Christmas this year.

Our collect asks God to give us the resolve to be ready to meet his Christ with righteous deeds at his coming. For today and for the future, when we **meet Jesus in Word** and Sacrament in **our celebration of the Eucharist**.

Keep safe and well, Fr Emile

Communion Antiphon First Sunday of Advent Ps 84: 13
‘The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.’

ADVENT 2024 We begin this Advent with a new translation of the Scriptures in our liturgy. The Jerusalem Bible or the Revised Standard Version and the Grail Psalms have been our translation for decades. From today, we all move to the English Standard Version and the Abbey Psalms. Much will be familiar, but there will also be many differences of style and vocabulary. Those changes may strike us and so help us to think afresh the meaning of the sacred text. Let us pray that we will embrace this as the Word of God that is always alive and active.

New Lectionary From the first Sunday in Advent we will be moving over to the new mandatory Lectionary. Mass books won't be able to be replaced at this time though more of the Mass cards may be made available if required. You may wish to purchase your own missal from the Catholic Truth Society website where they offer various versions of the New Sunday Missal 2025. Another option is the Day by Day books, kindly organised by Margaret Payne, which contain the readings and psalms for every day of each month. We do appreciate the generosity already shown in this parish by parishioners but replacing the Lectionaries for both churches has been very expensive and we would be very grateful for any donations towards the cost.

St Helen's Church Heating Please note that the heating in St Helen's is currently not working very well so please do wrap up warmly when coming to Mass.

John Scott RIP We just received the very sad news of the passing of John Scott, husband to Pat Scott. Please pray for Pat and her family at this sad time.

Christmas Eve Family Mass Rehearsal There will be a short rehearsal on SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER at 5 p.m. at St. Helen's, just before the evening mass, to allocate parts to the children for the Christmas Eve Family Mass.

St Margarets Quiz and Lunch - A grand total of £625 was raised at the Quiz and Lunch held at St Margarets on Saturday 23rd November which is a really tremendous effort by all those involved. Special thanks for those organising and also thanks to all those who supported. Events like this are a crucial support to our parish but also have an enormous benefit to our local community. Thank you.

St. Margarets Christmas Flowers There will be a short meeting after Mass on December 8th to discuss Christmas flower arrangements. Please come if you can as we need fresh ideas and lots of help on Dec 23rd when we decorate the church for the festive season. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Programme Applications for this year's First Holy Communion programme have now closed. The first meeting for parents will be on Monday 2nd December at the Kings Head, High Street, Ongar at 7.30pm. The programme for the children will start in the middle of January.

Confirmations We have a young man undertaking instruction to be Confirmed. Please join us in order to support him and share/ increase your knowledge and understanding of our Faith. The first meeting will be held at:- Gable End, Rectory Chase,, Doddinghurst, CM15 0QN on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 1.30 pm. All are welcome. Carol Terry

A Christmas message from the staff and trustees of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40th anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

**SVP AFTERNOON TEA PARTY
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS DODDY DROP-IN
MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
DANCING, RAFFLE AND A TASTY BUFFET
ON TUESDAY
10TH DECEMBER AT 2.00pm
VENUE - ST MARGARET'S HALL
DODDINGHURST ROAD
(free entry)**

REPOSITORY We have cards and gifts for Christmas, First Holy Communion's, Baptisms, Mass Intention Cards and other occasions for sale in the Repository in the porch at St Helen's at very reasonable prices. Please pay using the card box on the wall in the porch or get in touch with Ann Jackson if anything else required. Thank you.

Whatsapp Group: If anyone would like to join the parish Whatsapp Group please contact Denise Terry-Roberts at d.terryroberts@btinternet.com or on 07545 240064 for her to add your mobile number.

St. Margaret's Hall Hire St. Margaret's is available for hire for private functions and parties, children's parties, fitness classes, local groups and events holding up to 100 people at reasonable rates. If you would like more information or to make a booking please contact Kelly Love on 01277 362645, ongar@brcdt.org or whatsapp/msg 07929241350.

Hall Usage Calendar <https://catholicparishongar.org/hall-usage-calendar/>

Mass Attendance: **Nov 23/24** Sat 5.30pm: **14** Sun 8.45am: **15** 10.30am: **34**

Offertory Collection: £88.53

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY: £140.38

Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

Please contact Kelly Love if you require bank transfer details.

For Gift Aid/Envelopes please contact Bernard Adams 01277 823511

Thank you for your continued selfless generosity and support.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Sat 30th Nov, 2024	St H 5.30pm	ST ANDREW, Ap, PATRON OF SCOTLAND National Feast
Sun 1st Dec, 2024	St H 8.45am	The Hughes Family Int.
	St M 10.30am	Colonel Kittoe RIP (Foundation Mass)
Mon 2nd Dec, 2024	Ilford 9.30am	Jim & Elaine Cleary RIP Anita Moncreafe RIP (1 st Anniv.) Breege & Frank Smith 50 th Wedding Anniv. Riordan Family Int. Deidre Mullin Int. (K Buckley) Mary Dixon (Josie Byrne) Patrica Hallorhan Int (B'day 29/11)
Tue 3rd Dec, 2024	St H 9.00am	Maurice O'Sullivan Anniversary
Wed 4th Dec, 2024	St H 9.00am	Alan John-Lewis & family
Thu 5th Dec, 2024	St H 9.00am	Mary & Catherine Ryan Int. (Kathleen Cadam)
Fri 6th Dec, 2024	St H 9.00am	Peter Smith Anniv. (Paul Falco)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Sat 7th Dec, 2024	St H 5.30pm	Nalan Hassan & Family Int.
Sun 8th Dec, 2024	St H 8.45am	Collette & John Bourke RIP (Lillie & Family)
	St M 10.30am	Deceased members of the Adams and Benson Families (Mary & Bernard Ad- ams)

Fr. Emile would like to welcome any parishioners for Tea/Coffee and a chat on Thursdays in the Presbytery after mass each week.

Prayer List: Please pray for all our parishioners who are sick and need the benefit of our love and prayers: Alan Chapman, Maureen Hamilton, Lucy Gay, Stephen Garfield and family, Susan Corbin and family, Sue Potter, Philip Denton, Ivy Denton, Douglas Jordan, John Varellas, Bruno Vassallo, Fr. Emile Nkumu, Brian Kellaher, William Readman, Richard Denton, Theresa Aikin